

Message Text

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43

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SPC-03 AID-20 NSC-10 RSC-01

CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 LAB-06

SIL-01 L-03 H-03 PA-03 PRS-01 AF-10 SCEM-02 DRC-01

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R 241447Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7758

INFO AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 2350

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: ENGR DA

SUBJ: DANISH VIEWS ON LIBYAN OIL EXPROPRIATIONS AND GENERAL
ENERGY SITUATION

REF: STATE 182055

1. EMBASSY INFORMED BOTH FONOFF AND COMMERCE MINISTRY OF
SUBSTANCE US NOTE TO LIBYANS (REFTEL); WE ALSO HAD DISCUSSIONS
WITH ESSO AND MOBIL REPS. OUR CONCLUSION, SHARED BY US OIL
REPS, IS THAT DANES REGARD LIBYAN EXPROPRIATIONS AND GENERAL
ENERGY SUPPLY SITUATION AS MATTERS BEYOND THEIR CONTROL AND
THEREFORE NOT WORTH FOCUSING ON. COMMERCE MINISTRY REP
(NIELS HANSEN) TOLD US THAT, SINCE DANISH OIL CONSUMPTION IS SO
SMALL A PORTION OF TOTAL EUROPEAN CONSUMPTION, HE ASSUMES
OTHERS WHO HAVE MORE VITAL STAKE (I.E., INTERNATIONAL MAJORS,
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OTHER EC GOVERNMENTS AND USG) WILL TAKE REQUIRED ACTIONS IN

MANNER WHICH WILL "HOPEFULLY" AVOID SUPPLY SHORTAGES IN DENMARK.

2. PRESIDENT OF DANSK ESSO (DON LATIMER) TOLD US THAT REPS OF HIS COMPANY, ACTING AS SPOKESMEN FOR MAJORS IN DENMARK, RECENTLY HAD MEETING WITH HANSEN IN WHICH THEY EMPHASIZED NEED FOR WATCHING SUPPLY SITUATION CAREFULLY, 7&&3 53\$ 9.3 43)/-589, 9*
-,58-POLLUTION MEASURES PARTICULARLY ON FUEL OIL SULFUR CONTENT, AND URGED FUEL ECONOMIES, WHEREEVER POSSIBLE, INCLUDING FURTHER SUBSTITUTION OF COAL FOR OIL IN ELECTRIC POWER GENERATION. AS WITH US, HANSEN REACTION WAS PHLEGMATIC BUT ESSO INTENDS TO PERSIST IN KEEPING GOVERNMENT INFORMED ON SUPPLY PROBLEMS.

3. NEITHER ESSOR NOR MOBIL ARE CONCERNED OVER ANY IMMEDIATELY CRITICAL SUPPLY PROBLEMS IN DENMARK, BUT FEAR THAT, IF THESE DEVELOP WITHOUT ADEQUATE GOVERNMENT AWARENESS, INTERNATIONAL MAJORS WOULD GET MAJOR BLAME. WHILE THEY ARE CONCERNED ABOUT GORVERNMENT APATHY, THEY FROWN ON PUBLIC SCARE TACTICS AS PRACTICED BY LOQUACIOUS SHELL PRESIDENT WHO RECENTLY ISSUED RATHER SENSATIONAL ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT IMPENDING SHORTAGES

4. EMBASSY COMMENT. MULTINATIONAL COMPANIES HAVE RECENTLY RECEIVED BAD PRESS IN DENMARK AND WE SHARE ESSO CONCERN ABOUT BLAME FOR ANY FUTURE OIL SHORTAGES BEING SHIFTED TO INTERNATIONAL MAJORS. WE INTEND, THEREFORE, TO MAINTAIN DIALOGUE WITH GOVERNMENT, APSSING THEM APPROPRIATE INFORMATION ON INTERNATIONAL OIL DEVELOPMENTS FROM USG SOURCES AND GENERALLY SUPPORTING US OIL COMPANY EFFORTS TO GET GOVERNMENT SERIOUSLY TO FOCUS ON SUPPLY SITUATION IN DENMARK.

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